

in the government itself; the SNS control of the Ministry of Education, one of the most sensitive ministries for ethnic minorities; the Ministry of Education's previous position that it would require Slovak-language place names in Hungarian language textbooks; the handling of the investigation into the 2006 Hedvig Malinova case in a manner that makes it impossible to have confidence in the results of the investigation, and subsequent threats to charge Ms. Malinova with perjury; and the adoption of a resolution by the parliament honoring Andrei Hlinka, notwithstanding his notorious and noxious anti-Hungarian, anti-Semitic, and anti-Roma positions.

All that said, developments in Hungary have done little to calm the waters. Hungary itself has been gripped by a frightening rise in extremism, manifested by statements and actions of the Hungarian Guard, the "64 Counties" movement, and the extremist party Jobbik, all of which are known for their irredentist, anti-Semitic, and anti-Roma postures. Murders and other violent attacks against Roma, repeated attacks by vandals on the Slovak Institute in Budapest, attacks on property in Budapest's Jewish quarter in September, and demonstrations which have blocked the border with Slovakia and where the Slovak flag is burned illustrate the extent to which the Hungarian social fabric is being tested.

Not coincidentally, both Hungary and Slovakia have parliamentary elections next year, in April and June respectively, and, under those circumstances, it may suit extremist elements in both countries just fine to have these sorts of developments: nationalists in Slovakia can pretend to be protecting Slovakia's language and culture—indeed, the very state—from the dangerous overreach of Hungarians. Hungarian nationalists—on both sides of the border—can pretend that Hungarian minorities require their singular protection—best achieved by remembering them come election day. Meanwhile, the vast majority of good-natured Slovaks and Hungarians, who have gotten along rather well for most of the last decade, may find their better natures overshadowed by the words and deeds of a vocal few.

In meetings with Slovak and Hungarian officials alike, I have urged my colleagues to be particularly mindful of the need for restraint in this pre-election season, and I have welcomed the efforts of those individuals who have chosen thoughtful engagement over mindless provocation. I hope both countries will continue their engagement with the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, whom I believe can play a constructive role in addressing minority and other bilateral concerns.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### REMEMBERING PIERRE PELHAM

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I pay tribute to Pierre Pelham, a former colleague of mine in the Alabama State Senate, who recently passed away. He was a personal friend and, along with his family, I mourn his passing.

A native of Chatom, AL, and a resident of Mobile, AL, Pierre was born on July 20, 1929, to Judge and Mrs. Joe M. Pelham, Jr. An incredibly bright student, he graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Alabama and received his J.D. cum laude from Harvard Law School. During the Korean war, Pierre served as a captain in the Army and received both the Combat Infantryman Badge and Expert Infantryman Badge.

After his service in the Army, Pierre returned to Alabama and began to practice law. Described by many as brilliant, Pierre often took on cases that other lawyers did not want. One of his more interesting cases involved representing Aristotle Onassis' wife in her divorce from the wealthy shipping magnate.

In the 1960s, Pierre began to pursue his interest in politics. He served as the national campaign coordinator for Governor George Wallace and later as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention from Alabama's 1st Congressional District in 1960 and 1964. In 1966, Pierre was elected to serve in the Alabama State Senate. It was there that I had the distinct pleasure of working with him.

In 1970, Pierre was elected to serve as president pro tempore of the Senate. Pierre was renowned by our colleagues as an excellent orator and an exceptionally persuasive State senator. When word would spread around the State capitol that Pierre was speaking on the senate floor, it was not uncommon for the gallery to fill with spectators and for members of the House to cross over to the Senate to watch what would surely be an extraordinary speech. His articulation and command of the English language were simply captivating.

Although Pierre eventually retired from public life, as a fellow of Harvard's Kennedy Institute of Politics, he remained interested in national, State, and local affairs his entire life. Most people in Mobile will remember Pierre for his many contributions as a State senator to South Alabama, most notably his support for the creation of the University of South Alabama College of Medicine. I knew him to be honest, hardworking, and a committed State senator. He remained dedicated to his family and the people of Alabama throughout his life.

Pierre is loved and respected and will be missed by his wife Eva Pelham; his sons Marc Pelham and Joseph Pelham, IV; his daughters Pierrette Prestridge and Patrice Pelham; and 12 grandchildren. I ask the entire Senate to

join me in recognizing and honoring the life of my friend, Pierre Pelham.●

### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD) reported that he had signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 3288. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

At 3:39 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 303. A bill to reauthorize and improve the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999.

#### ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 6:13 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 62. Joint resolution appointing the day for the convening of the second session of the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

The enrolled joint resolution was subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REID).

### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4014. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of the Atlantic Low Offshore Airspace Area; East Coast United States" ((RIN2120-AA66)(Docket No. FAA-2008-1170)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4015. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule